

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A media editing method for editing media including an image sequence comprised of a plurality of images showing a user partially or entirely as a subject, said method comprising the steps of:

5 extracting a region from said images including the user partially or entirely;

determining whether or not the user included in the region extracted in said extracting step is facing a predesignated direction;

10 selecting a part of the image sequence between time points determined as the user facing the predesignated direction in said determining step by scanning said image sequence from a start point to an end point, and from the end point to the start point; and

15 editing the media including the image sequence selected in said selecting step.

2. The media editing method according to claim 1, wherein said determining step determines whether or not the user included in the region extracted in said extracting step is facing the front.

3. The media editing method according to claim 1,

further comprising the step of detecting a sound included in said media, and

5 said selecting step selects, by scanning the image sequence from the start point to the end point, and from the end point to the start point, the part of said image sequence satisfying as being between the time points determined in said determining step as the user facing the predesignated direction, and between time points at which a sound is each detected.

4. The media editing method according to claim 1, wherein said editing step specifies the image sequence selected in said selecting step by description in a meta-data format.

5. The media editing method according to claim 1, wherein said editing step clips out the image sequence selected in said selecting step from said media.

6. The media editing method according to claim 1, wherein said editing step selects the first image in the image sequence selected in said selecting step as an initial display image.

7. The media editing method according to claim 1, wherein said editing step calculates a partial region corresponding to said image sequence based on a position and size

12. The media editing method according to claim 1,
wherein

said extracting step extracts a face region including
the user's face, and

5 said editing step refers to a face characteristic
calculated based on the face region extracted in said extracting
step, and from a character database storing a plurality of
character images and the face characteristic each corresponding
thereto, selecting one or more of said character images.

13. The media editing method according to claim 11,
wherein said editing step calculates said face characteristic
based on character data inputted by the user.

14. The media editing method according to claim 11,
wherein said editing step calculates said face characteristic
based on a length-to-width ratio or a partial characteristic of
a face in the face region extracted in said extracting step.

15. A media editing device for editing media including
an image sequence comprised of a plurality of images showing a
user partially or entirely as a subject, said device comprising:

a region extraction part for extracting a region from
5 said images including the user partially or entirely;

a predetermined face orientation determination part for determining whether or not the user included in the region extracted by said region extraction part is facing a predetermined direction;

10 a frame selection part for selecting a part of the image sequence between time points determined as the user facing the predetermined direction by said predetermined face orientation determination part by scanning said image sequence from a start point to an end point, and from the end point to the start point;

15 and

an editing part for editing the media including the image sequence selected by said frame selection part.

16. The media editing device according to claim 15, further comprising a sound detection part for detecting a sound included in said media, and

5 said frame selection part selects, by scanning the image sequence from the start point to the end point, and from the end point to the start point, the part of said image sequence satisfying as being between the time points determined by said predetermined face orientation determination part as the user facing the predetermined direction, and between time points at
10 which a sound is each detected.

17. The media editing device according to claim 15,

wherein said editing part selects the first image in the image sequence selected by said frame selection part as an initial display image.

18. The media editing device according to claim 15, wherein said editing part calculates a partial region corresponding to said image sequence based on a position and size of the region extracted by said region extraction part, and
5 performs editing by using said partial region.

19. The media editing device according to claim 15, wherein said editing part arranges a text included in said media onto an arrangement region which is so set as not to overlap at all the region extracted by said region extraction part, or to
5 overlap as little as possible if overlaps.

20. The media editing device according to claim 20, wherein

said region extraction part extracts a face region including the user's face, and

5 said editing part refers to a face characteristic calculated based on the face region extracted by said region extraction part, and from a character database storing a plurality of character images and the face characteristic each corresponding thereto, selecting one or more of said character

10 images.

21. A computer-readable recording medium on which a program is recorded to be carried out by a device for editing media including an image sequence comprised of a plurality of images showing a user partially or entirely as a subject, said program comprising the steps of:

extracting a region from said images including the user partially or entirely;

determining whether or not the user included in the region extracted in said extracting step is facing a predesignated direction;

selecting a part of the image sequence between time points determined as the user facing the predesignated direction in said determining step by scanning said image sequence from a start point to an end point, and from the end point to the start point; and

editing the media including the image sequence selected in said selecting step.